

2015-2016 RoundUp

NEWS AND INFORMATION

WESTERN ART COUNCIL

Richard Hajek, Editor

PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM

WELCOME BACK BARBECUE! AND GEORGE MONTGOMERY AWARDS

Fall 2016

Sunday, November 13, 2015

By Richard Hajek

It was a beautiful evening at the historic O'Donnell Golf Club in Palm Springs for WAC's Welcome Back BBQ and the presentation of the 8th Annual George Montgomery Awards. More than one hundred WAC members and supporters enjoyed a hosted cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, a delicious Western style BBQ buffet and most importantly, camaraderie. Many guests enjoyed dancing to the music of the group Cahuilla, as well as line dancing taught by Christy Lane. As we know, WAC loves a great "hoedown".

Welcoming comments before dinner were made by Janet Langford, WAC Vice Chair; Jane Saltonstall, President of the Museum's Board of Trustees; and Elizabeth Armstrong, the JoAnn McGrath Executive Director of the Museum. The comments highlighted the Museum's ongoing and continuing commitment to the collecting and exhibiting of Western and Native American Art.

Following dinner we honored the 2015/2016 George Montgomery Award recipients, Michael O'Keefe and Susan and Michael Oster. Janet Langford and Christine Giles, Curator of Western and Native American Art spoke about the history of Western Art at the museum, upcoming exhibitions and the meaning and significance of George Montgomery to WAC. The three honorees have dedicated time, talent and resources to WAC and their contributions make them all most worthy of this prestigious award.

Helping make this event possible was the generosity of our sponsors. Our Diamond sponsors were Donna J. MacMillan and Dorothy Meyerman. Our Gold sponsors were Janet and Hugh Langford. There were nine Pearl sponsors and additional donations were provided by four WAC members.



From left to right: Rand Baker, Palm Springs Art Museum Curator of Western Art Christine Giles, Dennis Rowe



WAC Board members and 2015-16 George Montgomery Award winners, from left to right: Jackie Lockington, Michael O'Keefe, Susan Oster, Mike Oster, Maureen Ramer



WAC members enjoying line dancing

WAC and PCC Gallery Tour

Monday, March 21, 2016

By Richard Hajek

Forty members of the Western Art Council and the Photography Collection Council had the good fortune of experiencing a curator led walkthrough of the exhibitions *Edward S. Curtis: One Hundred Masterworks* and *Changing the Tone: Contemporary American Indian Photographers*. This valuable benefit of Council membership was led by Daniell Cornell, the Donna and Cargill MacMillan Jr., Director of Art and Christine Giles, Curator of Western and Native American Art. Daniell and Christine shared "tour" duties, each utilizing their own expertise in bringing Curtis' and the contemporary photographers' photos to life. They placed the photographs in a cultural and historical context which made the works resonant on many levels. All present for the event learned a great deal, and enjoyed themselves while doing it.



Janet and Hugh Langford



Director of Development, Michael Miner and curator Christine Giles, exhibition opening

The enjoyment continued in the Meyerman Sculpture Garden where a reception was held. In the spirit of collaboration between Councils, Loren Lipson, Chair of WAC, sponsored the delicious food catered by the Muse Café, while Benjamin Sullivan, Vice Chair of Programs for PCC, provided the wine.



WAC members enjoying gallery tour of Edward S. Curtis: One Hundred Masterworks

Thank You!

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Edward S. Curtis, *Bear's Belly- Arikara*, 1908, photogravure, courtesy of Christopher G. Cardozo Collection

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Christine Giles, Curator of
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Conversation with Collectors at the Homes of Jean Carrus and the Ramers

Friday, December 18, 2015 and Wednesday, February 3, 2016

By Janet Langford and Maureen Ramer



Angel Degrado and Phil Ramer

Jean Carrus opened her lovely home to the first **Conversations with Collectors** event of the season. Almost thirty people were treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine while enjoying Jean's fantastic collection of Western and Native American art.

Christine Giles and Jean started the program with an unusual story of a woman from Lancaster who had purchased a Maynard Dixon at a second hand store for 50 cents, authentic but damaged. The woman initially claimed she wanted to give it to the museum; but after Christine helped research the 1912 illustration by Dixon, the woman changed her mind. Yet, the story had a good ending. A few years later, Jean inadvertently acquired the work at an Arizona gallery and has promised it to the museum where it is currently on exhibit. Later, Jean has a Giclée reproduction made for Frank Bellagente, as it was one of his favorite things in his den.



Host Jean Carrus and curator Christine Giles

Pat Wilhite shared a painting by the Minnesota Chippewa artist David Bradley that she had bought in Taos. Janet Alfafara brought a pastel drawing of a bison that has been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coffman on a WAC trip to Wyoming. Rachel Druten, whose late mother was an avid collector of Native American art, shared a basket with a note inside written by her mother describing the purchase. Rachel's grandmother had bought the basket from the Native American artist who wove it when Rachel's mother was seven years old. Courtney Moe shared two historical fiction novels by Mark Sublette. Jim DeGrado shared a rare book, *Painters of the Desert*, by the well-known Los Angeles Times writer and editor Ed Ainsworth.

Jean drew our attention to the painting and frame above her fireplace done by the Cherokee-Choctaw artist Poteet Victory. When she built her Rancho Mirage home, she designed the fireplace especially for the painting. She also talked about the large 1940's Chinle Navajo rug hanging on the wall she bought from Mark Sublette.

John Nocita finished the program by sharing photographs of the 200-year old Burmese Burial Goddess made of gilded teak he and Dorothy are giving to the Phoenix Art Museum.

The season's second **Conversations with Collectors** was held at the lovely home of Maureen and Phil Ramer, long time Western Art Council (WAC) supporters. The Ramers' home is Spanish revival style in Toscana Country Club with a beautiful view of the mountains. Guests enjoyed refreshments as they viewed their collection and the beautiful setting.

Some of the highlights include Kirk Ellis sharing two pieces of wearable art. The first was an elaborate silver and coral bracelet by contemporary Navajo artist Cody Sanderson, nicknamed "Reefer Madness." Kirk demonstrated the playful sound of the bracelet as it moved. He also showed the group a Concho belt with beautiful inlay by a contemporary Zuni and Navajo artist. Kirk's wife Sheila bought the belt during a special trip to an original Mormon trading post in Gallup, New Mexico. Annette Smith shared a fabulous painting by Taos artist Nicholai Fechin, and Al Olson discussed a Hopi Hemis home dancer Katsina from the Heard Museum.

Thank you to all the people that shared their treasures including Donald Pelegrino, Pat Wilhite, Angel and Jim DeGrado, Audrey and Courtney Moe, and Jackie Lockington. It was a fun and educational afternoon.



Pat Wilhite

Edward S. Curtis Docent Lecture by Christopher Cardozo

Monday, February 22, 2016

By Richard Hajek

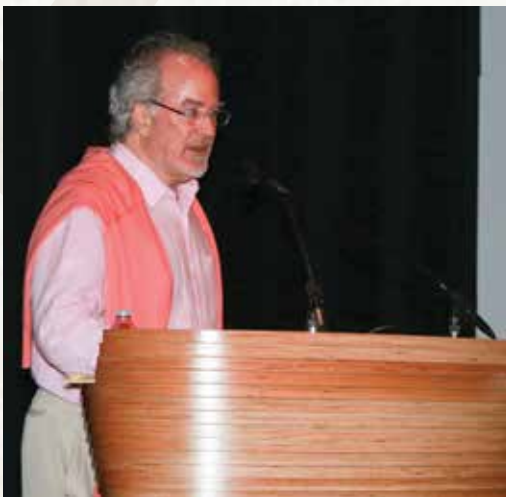
As a thank you to our docents, WAC and PCC sponsored a special program and reception in recognition of their dedication and hard work. According to the Director of Education of the Palm Springs Art Museum, this event was a “historic” occasion for the Museum. It was the first time that three Museum Councils joined together for a series of lectures. Besides WAC, the Photography Collection Council and the Docent Council participated in the all morning event.

Christopher Cardozo, curator for the *One Hundred Masterworks* exhibit, has a long history of studying Edward Curtis and collecting his photographs and material related to his anthropological studies. He commented that Curtis is known for his classic composition and classic lighting. He favored sepia which gave his images beauty, heart and spirit. Curtis’ first great fame was as a society photographer in Seattle but he soon left that work for his monumental project of photographing and exploring the traditions and culture of Native Americans. Cardozo spoke to some of the controversy about Curtis’ work and questions of whether the work was fine art or anthropological documents.

Christine Giles, Curator of Western Art, focused her talk on Curtis’ time in California. She presented a map that showed the widespread influence of Indian tribes in the State. Curtis photographed and documented his work with members of the Cahuilla tribe as early as 1905, yet, photographs were not published in “The North American Indian” 20 volume series until 1926. Palm Springs Art Museum is honored that the Agua Caliente Tribe of Cahuilla Indians loaned a number of Curtis’ images to this installation thereby offering a local perspective.

Daniell Cornell, the Donna and Cargill MacMillan Jr. Director of Art, discussed the contemporary photography by Native Americans that is an adjunct to the main exhibition. He feels that these artists have a “foot in both traditions”. In viewing these images, one can feel, as with Curtis’ images, the artists and their subjects, hearts, and spirits.

Following the lectures, participants toured the exhibits and also enjoyed a continental breakfast in the Muse Café and the Meyerman Sculpture Garden.



Guest curator Christopher Cardozo



Museum executive director Elizabeth Armstrong and Christopher Cardozo

Having Fun While Raising Funds

Monday, April 4, 2016

By Maureen Ramer

Where were you on April 2nd? If you attended this year's fabulous WAC Fundraiser *An Evening at Villa Santa Rosa: The Home and Studio of Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada*, you experienced a night to remember. Along with fundraising it was a friend-raising evening as we gained new members to WAC.

Guests were welcomed to Villa Santa Rosa a beautiful authentic Spanish home in a stunning setting at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains in La Quinta. As attendees enjoyed cocktails and appetizers, they viewed the magnificent art collection of Early California and Latin American Art displayed throughout Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada's home and her art studio. The beautiful centerpieces underwritten by Loren Lipson, MD enhanced the dining tables.



Co-Chair and event host Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada

We want to extend our gratitude to the following sponsors of the 2015-2016 Fundraiser: Platinum Sponsor Irene, George, and Steven Stern; Gold Sponsors Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada, Janet & Hugh Langford, Dorothy C. Meyerman; Maureen & Phil Ramer, Pat & Gary Gray; Silver Sponsors Donna J. MacMillan, Carol-Ann & Alan Olson, and to sixteen Bronze Sponsors.

The weather was as good as it gets, as it was a beautiful, balmy desert evening. Co-chairs Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada and Maureen Ramer wish to thank everyone who contributed to make it such a successful evening.



WAC Platinum Sponsors from left to right: George Stern, Co-Chair and event host Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada, Steven Stern, Irene Stern

Thanks to the generous underwriting by Mary Ingebrand-Pohlada, the Grammy Award winning Mariachi Divas provided pre-dinner and post-auction entertainment. They are an all-female group and their style and songs made it such an enjoyable event. As one knowledgeable guest said, he thought this was the most fun museum event that he'd ever attended.

With exciting Live Auction items to bid on, guests raised their paddles eagerly and gave generously to the museum. We were thrilled by the addition of a progressive dinner hosted by Dorothy Meyerman, Liz and Mike Ostorich, and David Wilson. Thank you to WAC members Elaine Hill, John Schoettler, and Loren Lipson for providing auction items. Following the live auction, The Hideaway Club served a delicious Spanish-themed dinner.



From left to right: Palm Springs Art Museum Chief Curator Katherine Hough, Chair of the Board of Trustees Donna MacMillan, Bud and Barbara Hoover

WAC Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Lecture

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

By Richard Hajek



Lecturer Mindy Besaw, PhD

The afternoon began with WAC's Annual Meeting. Vice Chair of Programs Janet Langford led the meeting. Reports were given by various committee chairs. Overall, this season's exhibitions and programs were enthusiastically received by WAC and Museum members. Financially, WAC had a successful year with the Fundraiser, BBQ and event sponsors making major contributions. Membership was down, probably due to restructuring of membership categories and the loss of docent members. A number of WAC members have moved out the area and did not renew. Curator Christine Giles talked about this season's Edward Curtis exhibit as well as the upcoming exhibit, *Go West! Art of the American Frontier*, which will be installed in Fall 2016.

The slate of officers for the 2016/17 year was unanimously approved. The new executive board consists of Chair Janet Langford; 1st Vice Chair, Programs Maureen Ramer; 2nd Vice Chair, Membership Jane Weber; Treasurer Bob Saltonstall; and Recording and Corresponding Secretary Gioconda McMillan.

Following the meeting, WAC members were joined by other Museum members for the lecture *West as America? Broadening the Lens on Western American Art* presented by

Mindy Besaw, PhD. Dr. Besaw is a curator at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and oversees the American art collection covering Colonial time to 1900. Dr. Besaw was the co-curator of the Museum's upcoming exhibit, *Go West*, while she was a curator at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Whitney Western Art Museum. The lecture touched upon a number of thought provoking topics, beginning with the question "What is Western Art?". The topic of Western art versus American art was also discussed. Dr. Besaw argued for a different way to install Western art in order to be more inclusive with all American art. Her thesis was that Western art will be more appreciated if seen in context with American art as a whole.

After the meeting the group adjourned to the Dorothy and Harold J. Meyerman Sculpture Garden for a reception with light refreshments. Conversation ensued about the lecture and WAC's extraordinary year – many WAC members and guests have gone multiple times to the Edward Curtis exhibit.

Fine Arts Creativity Award

2015/2016 WAC Sponsored Winner



A Special Place In My Heart, Janeth Ventura,
Indio High School, ceramic

**Janeth Ventura
Indio High School**

Instructor: Corie Stemmer

***A Special Place in My Heart*, Ceramics**

The sculpture I created in remembrance of my father who was and still is my number one hero. He was such a respectful, responsible, and a humble man. His passion for his job was admirable; he was a framer, a true carpenter at heart, and a cowboy. He was admired for his phenomenal work ethic. He once said, "The day I die, let it be at my job." To this day what puts an immense pain in my heart and brings tears to my eyes, is that he made this comment about two weeks before he died. On August 19, 2013, I woke up to the most heartbreaking news: my dad had passed away from an myocardial infarction. Let me tell you something...he left us where he most desired. There's no day that passes by that I don't think of him; he will forever have a special place in my heart.

2016-2017 Schedule of Events

- Saturday, November 12, 2016*** *Go West! Art of the American Frontier from the Buffalo Bill Center of the West*
6-7 p.m. lecture *Members Reception and WAC Sponsored Lecture, Peter H. Hassrick*
7-8 p.m. reception Palm Springs Art Museum
- Monday, November 14, 2016*** **Mondays at the Museum: Peter H. Hassrick guest lecturer, Sponsored by the Western Art Council**
10 a.m. -12 p.m. Annenberg Theater, Palm Springs Art Museum
- Sunday, November 20, 2016** **9th Annual Welcome Back BBQ! and George Montgomery Award**
5-8:30 p.m. Smoke Tree Ranch, Palm Springs
- Thursday, December 15, 2016** **WACIMAC Sponsored Public Lecture Jonathan Petropoulos, The "Real" (and Reel) Monuments Men, the Gurlitt Cache, and the Continuing Challenges of Nazi Looted Art**
5:30-6:30 p.m. Annenberg Theater, Palm Springs Art Museum
- Saturday, January 14, 2017** **Conversations with Collectors**
2-4 p.m. The Home of Nadine and Robert Hall
- Thursday, February 2, 2017** **Day Tour**
All day event Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University and Hilbert home tour
- Tuesday, February 28, 2017** **Curatorial Councils Fundraiser - Preview of Auction 2017**
(Program and time TBD)
- Sunday, March 5, 2017*** **Auction 2017 (OFFSITE)**
- Thursday, March 16, 2017** **Conversations with Collectors (OFFSITE - TBD)**
4-6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 25, 2017*** **Palm Springs Art Museum Gala**
5 p.m. Palm Springs Art Museum
- Thursday, March 30, 2017** **Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Program**
3:30-4:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Election of Officers - WAC Members Only
Lecture Hall, Palm Springs Art Museum
5-6 p.m. **Lecture: (Speaker TBD)**
Open to the Public
Annenberg Theater, Palm Springs Art Museum
- July or August** **Seattle/Tacoma 5-day Summer Art Tour**
(Exact dates TBD)

All dates and events are subject to change as the season progresses.

***Museum-wide events**